1475 c. 2 = (31)

THE SPEECH

Of the Right Honourable

Sir PATIENCE WARDE,

LORD MAYOR Elect,

At *Guild-Hall* LONDON, *September* 29, 1680. being the Day of his Election.

Together with the

SPEECH

Of the Right Honourable

Sir ROBERT CLAYTON

Knight, the Preſent Lord Mayor of *LONDON.*

The SPEECH *of the Lord Mayor Elect.*

GENTLEMEN,

I Cannot but be ſenſible of the Honour you have been pleaſed to confer upon me, in calling me by your free Choice to the place of Chief Magiſtrate of this Populous and Famous City, and therefore am obliged to return you, as I do, my humble Acknowledgement.

Although when I reflect on the meanneſs of my Abilities, for the diſcharge of ſo great and difficult a Service, eſpecially under the preſent Circumſtances of Affairs, when Fears and Cares preſs on us, I might heartily wiſh to have been excuſed: Yet, in confidence of (and imploring) the Divine Aſſiſtance, and hopes of your favourable Acceptance of my ſincere Endeavours, I ſubmit to the ſame.

I do not preſume to think that I ſhall be able to come up to the Pattern my worthy Predeceſſor hath ſet before me, whoſe Excellent Conduct hath contributed much to our peaceable and ſafe Meeting this Day, and well deſerves our Praiſe and Thanks; but I ſhall labour to imitate it the beſt I can.

I ſhall, according to the beſt of my Underſtanding, make the Laws of the Land, and the Conſtitutions, Uſages and Cuſtoms of of this Renowned City, my Rule; the Glory of God, the Honour of the King, the Upholding the *Proteſtant Religion*, and maintaining the Peace, Liberties, and Proſperity of this City, my End in all my Adminiſtrations: And if at any time I ſhall ſeem to any of you to deviate from theſe, I entreat you to make a candid Conſtruction, and forbear ſudden and ſevere cenſuring my Actions, waiting for better Information. For if through Humane Frailty, I may fail in a Circumſtance, I aſſure you, in the main and ſubſtance I ſhall never ſwerve from this my propoſed end.

Our Indefatigable Enemies. the Church of *Rome* (who in former times did lay and carry on Deſigns for Subverſion of the *Proteſtant Religion*, and Government eſtabliſhed in theſe Kingdoms) have of late been more active than ever. And to paſs over the *Burning the City*, and frequent Attempts of that kind, and the many other *Plots* and *Conſpiracies* at our remoter parts; came to thoſe horrid Reſolutions of *Aſſaſſinating* His Majeſties Royal Perſon, and to menace even Juſtice it ſelf in the Inquiries after them, by that Barbarous Murder of (the never to be forgotten) Sir *Edmond Bury Godfrey*, and Attempts on Others, in order to an introducing their falſe Religion: All which carry their own Evidences ſo full and great, that ſuch who will not ſhut their Eyes, have Demonſtration; and calls aloud upon us to watch againſt ſuch a People, whoſe Religion (according to their Caſuiſts) allows, if not engageth them in ſuch Practices.

But beſides theſe, wherein God hath wonderfully diſappointed them (and I hope ever will) there is juſt cauſe to apprehend they are more ſecretly undermining Us, and amongſt other wayes, by being the occaſion of, or at leaſt taking occaſion from the great Impiety, Prophaneneſs and Atheiſm of late crept in amongſt Us; and the raiſing and fomenting Diviſions and Animoſities between our ſelves; and therefore, as much as in me lies, to obviate theſe their wicked purpoſes, I have propounded:

Firſt, To endeavour the Advancement of the Glory of God; and in order thereunto, I am reſolved to be Impartial in the puniſhment

niſhment of Wickedneſs and Debauchery, and in countenancing Piety and Vertue; And entreat by your good Admonitions and Examples to make my work the more eaſy in this particular.

Secondly; To promote the Honour of the King, our Religion obligeth us to be good and loyal Subiects, add to give to *Cæſar* the things that are *Cæſars*; and therefore as I ſhall ſtudy to evidence my own unfeigned Loyalty to the King's Majeſty, ſo I ſhall be careful, according to Law to puniſh all Diſloyalty in any whomſoever.

Thirdly; To uphold the *Proteſtant* Religion, as to which nothing will more conduce than an Union in Affection of all thoſe who profeſs the ſame Faith, and agree in the eſſential Doctrine of it, however they may differ touching ſome Circumſtantials, that we may, as honeſt Men, and good Chriſtians maintain Love and good-will, as thoſe who mind the ſame thing, and intend the ſame Common-Good of all, and this to be the Only Meaſure of our Actions, all private and particular Apprehenſions being made ſubject thereto.

Fourthly; To the particular Concerns of this City, I ſhall make it my Buſineſs to preſerve it in Peace, and advance its Proſperity in all things. And in order thereto, ſhall from time to time deſire the Advice and Aſſiſtance of my worthy Bretheren the Aldermen, and as often of the Common-Council as occaſion ſhall require.

And if we are carefull to diſcharge our duty to God, in a ſober and pious Converſation; To the King, in a dutiful and loyal comportment; To the Religion we profeſs, by Union and Charity among our ſelves; To this City, in promoting its Peace and Welfare, we need not fear but God will diſſipate and diſappoint all the Deſigns of his and our Enemies, and continue his Bleſſings to us. And ſo let us pray, that his Majeſty may be bleſſed with a long and happy Reign, and this City and Kingdom with Peace and Proſperity.

The Speech of the preſent Lord-Mayor.

Gentlemen,

I Rejoyce to meet you here this day, where I can ſee the face of my Succeſſor, and almoſt an end of my own troubleſom Year, in which I can truly affirm I have uſed my hearty endeavours for the carrying on and promoting the common Buſineſs

and Advantage of the City, with the ſame Integrity and Induſtry I ever did in my own private Concerns, as far as my Health and Strength of Body would permit; and I wiſh I could ſay, they had the deſired effects. And as for what concerns the Publick, that I own my ſelf ſubject to many humane Frailties, and pretend not, in that Hurry of Affairs that attend my Office, to be exempted from Surprize; yet I can with ſafety ſay, that in what I have done therein, I have acted according to the Dictates of my own Conſcience, and the Rule of Law: And if, whilſt I have followed thoſe Guids, any think I have been miſled, my ſatisfaction is, I have them to appeal to for my Vindication.

And now, *Gentlemen*, being almoſt out of Office, and not likely to have any other opportunity of ſpeaking to you before I take my leave of it, I muſt ſay one thing more to you.

'Tis not to tell you how troubleſome it hath been to me, nor what hourly Care for the Peace and Safety of this City I have laboured under, nor how I have impaired my Health and Eſtate in this Service; for all theſe every ſober Man's own Thoughts will eaſily ſuggeſt to him.

But it is to beg favour of you, and that not for my ſelf alone, but for you, for us all, and for this great City (whoſe Members we all are.) And it is, that all of us, who profeſs our ſelves to be Chriſtians, would ſo far bear teſtimony to the Truth of that Profeſſion, as heartily in Meekneſs and Forbearance to love one another. And tho there be Differences in Opinions, and the outward Modes and Forms of Divine Worſhip; yet let not theſe have that effect, as in the leaſt to divide us, or divert us from the Common Defence, which all good Proteſtants are engaged in to ſtand together. The due Regard of which, in my poor Opinion, next under God, is the only probable way left for our Deliverance.

I beg your Pardon for the freedom I have uſed, and am well aſſured, all my Defects will be liberally ſupplied by my worthy Succeſſor. And I ſhall pray, that God of his Goodneſs will diſperſe thoſe Clouds, that ſeem ſo much to threaten this City and Nation, and to defeat all Councils that tend thereto; to bleſs His Majeſty with a long and happy Reign, and this City and Kingdom with Peace and Tranquility.

LONDON, Printed for *Ben. Harris*, at the *Stationers Arms* under the *Piazza* of the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhil*. 1680.

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